

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of correlating a sampled direct sequence spread spectrum signal with a locally provided replica signal containing a spreading code, the method comprising the steps of:
  - combining the bit or bits of at least two signal samples of the received signal to form a first word;
  - providing a second word containing bits corresponding to the replica signal; and
  - executing one or more software based instructions to carry out word-based, hard-wired operations to process the first and second words in order to obtain a correlation value.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the processing of the first and second words is done using hardwired circuitry.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the processing of the first and second words includes a word based XOR operation or its inverse and a summation of the results of that operation.
4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein a software based instruction is executed to form the first word.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein each sample of the spread spectrum signal contains at least one magnitude bit and a sign bit; wherein the first word is formed by combining the magnitude bit or bits of at least two signal samples; wherein a third word is formed by combining the sign bit of at least two signal samples; and

wherein one or more software based instructions are executed to process the first, second and third words in order to obtain a correlation value.

6. (currently amended) A signal processor configured for correlating a sampled direct sequence spread spectrum signal with a locally provided replica signal containing a spreading code by combining the bit or bits of at least two signal samples of the received signal to form a first word, providing a second word containing bits corresponding to the replica signal, and executing one or more software based instructions to carry out word-based, hard-wired operations to process the first and second words in order to obtain a correlation value.
7. (original) A signal processor according to claim 6 wherein the processing of the first and second words is done using hardwired circuitry.
8. (original) A signal processor according to claim 6 wherein the processing of the first and second words includes a word based XOR operation or its inverse and a summation of the results of that operation.
9. (original) A signal processor according to claim 6 wherein a software based instruction is executed to form the first word.
10. (original) A signal processor according to claim 6 wherein each sample of the spread spectrum signal contains at least one magnitude bit and a sign bit; wherein the first word is formed by combining the magnitude bit or bits of at least two signal samples; wherein a third word is formed by combining the sign bit of at least two signal samples; and wherein one or more software based instructions are executed to process the first, second and third words in order to obtain a correlation value.

11. (previously presented) A direct sequence spread spectrum signal receiver comprising an antenna and an RF front-end including an analogue to digital converter for receiving spread spectrum signals and outputting corresponding signal samples; and a signal processor according to claim 6.

12. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium having recorded thereon data containing instructions for performing a method according to claim 1.

13. (currently amended) A computer program comprising instructions ~~for performing~~ ~~a~~stored on a memory device which, when executed by a processor, perform the method according to claim 1.